60 Cubans Cross to U.S. In Heavy Sea

KEY WEST, Oct. 14 (UPI) Coast Guard cutters standing picket duty in the Florida Straits today intercepted three boats with 60 more refugees from Cuba.

At the departure camp at Camarioca, Cuba, small boats were reported arriving almost hourly to take out more refugees under the "open door" policy. More than 200 Cuban nationals have arrived here since the "freedom shuttle" started last week.

Premier Castro called a temporary halt to the exodus yesterday because of bad weather in the treacherous Straits, but permitted the departures to resume today despite continued ten-foot seas and high winds.

Those arriving told of confusion at the embarkation point and persons pleading for passage to the United States.

"A guy came up to me in Camarioca with a suitcase full of $8000 in cold cash," said capt. Tony Tarracina.

"It was all in $100 American bills and he asked me to take 80 persons back on my boat at $100 a head . . . I turned him down because I was afraid I'd get in trouble."

A correspondent at Camarioca reported the departure camp is so jammed it will hold no more people and persons outside the 6-foot fence plead tearfully to be admitted.

Castro announced Sept. 28 that any Cuban nationals so desiring could leave his island. Exiles, fearing he will renege on the offer, have set up their own shuttle although the U.S. Government has urged the exiles not to make any attempt to get relatives off the island until "reliable" transportation can be worked out.

The United States and Cuba are still trying to officially work out transportation details.